

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
O F
S C O T L A N D

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 19th Day of May 1785.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.



EDINBURGH:

Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church
of Scotland.

M,DCC,LXXXV.

THE PRINCIPAL
 ACTS
 OF THE
 General Assembly
 OF THE
 CHURCH
 OF
 SCOTLAND

Convened at EDINBURGH the 19th Day of May 1782.

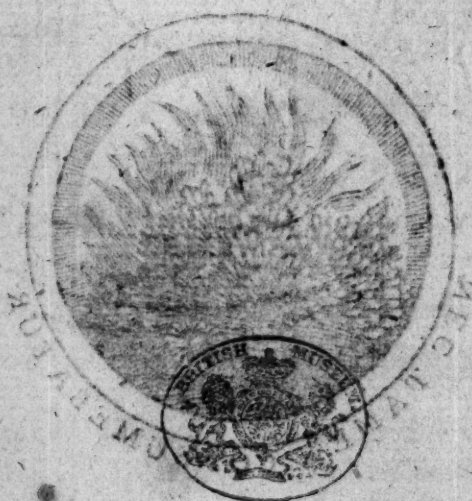
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Collected and corrected from the Records by the Clerks of the Assembly.

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MDCCLXXXV.

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
OF
S C O T L A N D,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 19th Day of *May* 1785, and
concluded the 30th *May* said year.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to
be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 19. 1785.

THE General Assembly of this National Church
being convened and constituted, there was pro-
duced to them, by the Right Honourable DA-
VID Earl of LEVEN, the King's Commission,
sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union
to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great
Seal

Seal of Scotland, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Francia, et Hibernia Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentis literæ nostræ pervenerint, Salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in decimum nonum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei, Davidis Comitis de Leven, quod ad summum munus supremi nostri Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti nos tenore præsentium, nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven, supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, et præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequente generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene at libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi muneris fecerat, vel quovis tempore præterito facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper dictæ ecclesiæ et conventus pastoribus, et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britannia Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cunctisque gradus seu qualitatibus, ut dicto Davidi Comiti de Leven, tanquam supremo nostro Commissionario, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatam, revereantur, agnoscant, observant et obtemperant, stricte mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem a dicto decimo nono die Maii proximi incipere, et in vigore esse et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus continuare, declaramus,

declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus, Sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, decimo quarto die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et octogesimo-quinto, regniq. nostri anno vigesimo-quinto. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis superscript.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. The attention which you have shewn to the great cause of Religion and Virtue, and the proofs you have given of your duty, loyalty, and attachment, to Our Person and Government, have a just claim to Our Royal Protection. We, therefore, have great satisfaction in renewing, upon the present occasion, Our assurances of a constant resolution to support and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by Law established, in the perfect enjoyment of her Rights and Privileges.

We cannot too warmly recommend to you the continuance of that harmony which will give dignity to your proceedings; and that, avoiding all narrow distinctions, private animosities, and personal altercations, you confine your deliberations to the great and laudable work of promoting Christian Virtue, and discouraging every tendency to vice and immorality, a system of conduct that cannot but be acceptable to Us, and of permanent advantage to the Church of Scotland.

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We

We have again made choice of Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, David Earl of Leven, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied of his loyalty, integrity and zeal for Our Service, and of his particular affection for the Church of Scotland; so that Our appointing him to that high and important Office cannot but be agreeable to you; and We trust, that this Meeting will be concluded with the same unanimity and brotherly affection, which have distinguished your former Assemblies; and so We bid you heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at St James's, the 6th day of May 1785, in the twenty-fifth year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

S Y D N E Y.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

THE very gracious letter with which your Majesty hath honoured this meeting of the National Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the respect and gratitude due to such a distinguishing proof of your Royal Favour.

The satisfaction which your Majesty is pleased to express with our attention to the great cause of Religion and Virtue, and with our duty, loyalty, and attachment, to your Majesty's Person and Government, is a fresh and very powerful motive to induce us to apply ourselves, with

with zeal and activity, to diffuse among the people committed to our care, the warmest sentiments of Religion, and the most grateful sense of your Majesty's mild and constitutional Government.

We receive, with the greatest satisfaction, the renewed assurances of your Majesty's constant resolution to support and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by Law established, in the complete enjoyment of her Rights and Privileges; and we rely on them with the most perfect confidence.

We have received, with the utmost respect, your Royal Recommendation of the continuance of that harmony, which will give dignity to our proceedings; and we are happy in the persuasion, that, by avoiding all narrow distinctions, private animosities, and personal altercations, and, by confining our deliberations to the great and laudable work of promoting Christian Virtue, and discouraging every tendency to vice and immorality, we shall render ourselves acceptable to your Majesty; and we are fully convinced, that such a system of conduct will, at the same time, be of permanent advantage to the Church of Scotland.

We have had so much experience, on former occasions, of the loyalty, integrity, and zeal for your Majesty's service, of the Noble Lord, whom your Majesty hath been pleased to appoint to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly, and we are so fully satisfied of his exemplary regard for Religion, and his particular affection for the Church of Scotland, that we cannot but consider your Majesty's repeated nomination of him, as an additional mark of your Royal Favour to us.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that it is our firm resolution to conduct the business of this Assembly, with that unanimity and brotherly affection, which, we trust, will secure to us the continuance of your Majesty's approbation, and which we know to be essentially requisite to promote the great purposes for which we are assembled. Your Majesty's Donation of one thousand pounds, we accept with all gratitude, as a proof of the continuance of your Majesty's paternal concern for the spiritual as well as temporal interests of your people, even in the most remote and uncultivated parts of your kingdoms, and it shall be our study to apply it in such a manner as may most effectually promote the pious and benevolent purposes of the Royal Donor.

That

That the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may bless your Majesty with all spiritual and temporal blessings, and render your reign long and prosperous; that the favour of Divine Providence may ever attend your Royal Consort, our most gracious Queen; and that the Most High may be the Guardian and Protector of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and of all your Royal Family, are, and ever shall be, the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

H. MONCRIEFF-WELLWOOD, *Mod.*



IV.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Sir Harry Moncrieff-Wellwood, Bart. one of the ministers of the West Church, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr Duncan Shaw at Aberdeen, Mr William Forsyth at Aboyne, Mr John Ramfay at Strathaen, Mr Robert Farquharson

quharson at Logy Coldstone, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Tarnes, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr Robert Gauld at Culsalmond, Mr George Skeene Keith at Keith-hall, Mr James Johnston at Crimond, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Alexander Simpson at Frasersburgh, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Thomas Wilson at Gamery, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Ordiquhill, Mr George Algernon Gordon at Keith, Mr George Gordon at Mortlich, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, Mr John Anderson at Kingusich, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr William Leslie at St Andrews, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkillie, Mr James Gillan at Kinloss, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr Price Campbell at Arderfier, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr Alexander Fraser at Kirkhill, Mr Robert Monro at Kilmuir Wester, Mr Thomas Simpson at Avock, Mr Andrew Gallie at Kincardine, Mr John Ross at Logie Easter, Mr John Fraser at Kilmorack, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskine, Mr James Grant, at Laggan, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, Mr John Fraser at Locks, Mr Murdoch Maciver at Lochalsh, Mr Roderick Morrison at Kintail, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr William Gun at Golspie, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachillis, Mr James Dingwall at Far, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr James Somervill at Whitburn, Mr John Fraser at Libberton, Mr Patrick Robertson at Eddleston, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Walter Fisher at Cranston, Mr Andrew Smith at Langton, Mr William Scott at Southdean, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smallholm, Mr William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, Mr Richard Scott at Ewis, Mr Jacob Dickson at Moufiewald, Mr Robert Aitken at Mortown, Mr Brice Johnston at Holywood, Mr Alexander Macgowan at Dalry, Mr John Inglis at Kirkmabreck, Dr William Dalrymple at Ayr, Mr James Woodrow at Stevenstone, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr John Risk at Dalserf, Mr William Lockhart at Glasgow, Mr John Allan at Row, Mr James Thorburn at Kingarth, Mr George Robertson at Campbelton, Mr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, Mr William Campbell at Kilchrenan, Mr Patrick Campbell at Kilninner, Mr Patrick Macarthur at Torosay, Mr Dugald Campbell at Ross, Mr Adam Fergusson at Moulin, Mr

William Inverarity at Caputh, Mr Harry Inglis at For-teviot, Mr Alexander Duff at Tibbermuir, Mr David Thomson at St Ninians, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr James Dymmuck at Aberfoil, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr Samuel Martin at Monimail, Dr John Adamson at St Andrews, Professor George Hill, St Andrews, Mr Thomas Masson at Glen-illa, Mr Thomas Wright at Rescobie, Mr James Henderson at Monyfeith, Mr John Carnegie at Inverkeiler, Mr David Miller at Edzill, Mr Alexander Leslie at Fordoun, Ministers; James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, Mr William Macdonald of Reneton, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; Lord Henderland, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, Mr Alexander Forbes writer, Mr John Robertson writer, Mr John Russell, *junior*, clerk to the Signet, the Honourable Baron Gordon, Mr Isaac Grant, writer to the Signet, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Thomas Gordon writer, Walter Dunbar, Esq; Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, Bailie John Walker, Edinburgh, Lord Ankerville, Donald Smith, Esq; Edinburgh, Mr James Fraser writer to the Signet, the Procurator, Mr Bannatyne-William Macleod, advocate, Professor Hugh Macleod, Bailie Daniel Miller, Bailie James Torry, Edinburgh, Mr George Home baker, Professor Andrew Dalziel, Edinburgh, Bailie William Galloway, John Grieve, Esq; Mr Solicitor General, the Right Honourable Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener William Jamieson, Mr James Home writer to the Signet, Lord Chief Baron, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; Lord President, Earl of Hyndford, David Smith, Esq; Haddington, Charles Brown, Esq; of Coalston, Robert Hunter, Esq; of Thurston, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; writer to the Signet, John Stewart, Esq; younger of Allanbank, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, Mr Adam Ogilvie advocate, Earl of Lauderdale, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, Mr Richard Tod merchant, Leith, Mr Walter Scott merchant, Edinburgh, Gideon Rutherford, Esq; Alexander Fergusson, Esq; advocate, Alexander Gordon, Esq; advocate, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate, Sir James Colquhoun, James Colquhoun, Esq; John Lamont, Esq; Mr John Home of Kilduff, Mr Archibald Fletcher, writer to the Signet, Allan Macdougall, Esq; Thomas Elder, Esq; Edinburgh, David Stewart, Esq; Edinburgh, John Erskine, Esq; advocate, Bailie James Gentle, Sir Charles Preston, Major John Melvill, Neil Fergusson,

guffon, Esq; Dr Andrew Duncan, Honourable Henry Erskine, Mr Thomas Milne, Canongate, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, Mr William Leslie writer to the Signet, Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, writer, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour, among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies:

blies : And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do : Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them ; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee ; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof : And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts ; And that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified ; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment ; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them ; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above
named

named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That, at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the

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the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs, which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Sir Harry Moncrieff-Wellwood, one of the ministers of the West Church, their moderator; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr Duncan Shaw at Aberdeen, Mr Robert Dunbar at Old Machar, Mr Robert Wyatt at Skeene, ministers, James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, George Strachan-Keith, Esq; of Auchhorsh, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Kincardine-o'neal, Mr William Forsyth at Aboyne, Mr John Ramsay at Strathaen, Mr Robert Farquharson at Logy Coldstone,

Coldstone, ministers, William Macdonald of Renneton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellen, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Tarves, Mr William Duff at Foveran, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garioch, Mr Robert Gauld at Culsalmond, Mr George Skeene-Keith at Keithhall, Mr John Harper at Leslie, ministers, George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; of Smeaton, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kintore, the Right Honourable Lord Henderland; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr James Johnston at Crimond, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Alexander Frazer at Fraserburgh, ministers, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Turriff, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Thomas Wilson at Gamory, ministers, Mr Alexander Forbes, writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Ordiquhill, ministers, Mr John Robertson, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Banff, Mr John Russell *junior*, clerk to the Signet; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr George Algernon-Gordon at Keith, Mr George Gordon at Mortlich, ministers, the Honourable Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, ministers, Mr Isaac Grant, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr John Anderson at Kingussie, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr William Leslie at St Andrews and Langbride, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkillie, Mr James Gillen at Kinloss, ministers, Walter Dunbar, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr Pryce Campbell at Ardersier, ministers, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kirkhill, deficient in number of members; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Robert Monro at Kilmuir Wester, Mr Thomas Simpson at Avoch, ministers, Bailie John Walker, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr Andrew Gallie at Kincardine, Mr John Ross at Logie Easter, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr John Frazer at Kilmorack,
Mr

Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, ministers, Donald Smith, Esq; banker in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleiskine, Mr James Grant at Laggan, ministers, James Fraser of Gortuleg, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, ministers, Mr James Forrest, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, Mr John Fraser at Lochs, ministers, Mr William Robertson, procurator for the Church, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch Maciver, at Lochalsh, Mr Roderick Morison at Kintail, ministers, Bannatyne-William Macleod, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornock, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr William Gun at Golspie, ministers, Professor Hugh Macleod, Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tong, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr James Dingwall at Far, ministers, Lieutenant-General Mackay, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, ministers, Bailie Daniel Miller, merchant, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr John Scollay at St Andrews, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendal, ministers, bailie James Torry, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Mr George Home, baker in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr Patrick Mair at Bressay, ministers, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr John Drysdale, Edinburgh, Mr James Craig at Currie, Mr John Gibson at West Church, Mr James Robertson at Ratho, Dr David Johnston at North Leith, ministers, Bailie William Galloway, John Grieve, Esq; Mr Solicitor Dundas, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable James Hunter-Blair, Lord Provost of the city, Mr William Jamieson, deacon-convener of the trades; from the University of Edinburgh, Dr Andrew Hunter, Professor of Divinity; from the church of Campvere, Mr Alexander Wilson, minister at Campvere, Mr James Turing, factor at the Staple Port of Campvere; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr John Bertram at Muiravenfide, Mr John Ritchie at Abercorn, Mr James Somerville at Whitburn, Mr William Finlay at Polmont, ministers, Sir William Augustus Cunningham, the Honourable Captain Robert Sandilands,

Sandilands, ruling elders ; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Robert Clark ; from the burgh of Queensferry, Mr William Allan, merchant, Queensferry ; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Lamington, Mr John Frazer at Liberton, ministers, Mr James Home, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Peebles, Mr Patrick Robertson at Eddleston, Mr William Welch at Manner, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Alexander Colvil at Ormiston, Mr Walter Fisher at Cranston, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord President, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Andrew Nisbet at Garvat, Mr George Goldie at Atholstonford, Mr Hugh Cunningham at Tranent, ministers, the Right Honourable the Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Haddington, David Smith, Esq; present Provost of Haddington ; from the burgh of North Berwick, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr John Ewen at Whitingham, Mr John Harvie at Innerwick, ministers, Robert Hunter of Thurston, Esq; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Dunse, Mr Andrew Smith at Langton, Mr William Simson at Greenlaw, ministers, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; of Couston, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Churnside, Mr George Couples at Swinton, Mr Philip Redpath at Hutton, ministers, John Stewart, Esq; younger of Allanbank, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, ministers, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Lauder, Dr Alexander Duncan, at Smelholm, Mr Robert Dawson at Stow, ministers, the Right Honourable Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr Steven Oliver at Maxton, Mr William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, ministers, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod, merchant, Leith ; from the presbytery of Annan, Mr James Gatt at Grateney, Mr Alexander Monilaws at Kirkpatrick Fleming, ministers, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Bart. ruling elder ; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott, merchant, Edinburgh ; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr Richard Scott at Ewes, Mr John Russell at Canonbie, ministers,

Gideon Rutherford of Greenpark, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Dr Patrick Nisbet at Hutton, Mr Jacob Dickson at Mousewald, Mr Robert Little at Applegirth, ministers, Mr Peter Haliday at Barntrimphin, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch, Esq; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr Robert Aitken at Mortown, Mr James Wilson at Tynron, ministers, Mr Thomas Harkness in Closeburn, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr James Macmillan at Torthorwall, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Mr Joseph Kirkpatrick at Dunscore, ministers, Alexander Gordon of Culvennan, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, Mr John Aitken, one of the town-clerks of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr Alexander Macgowan at Dalry, Mr Samuel Smith at Carsfairn, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, ministers, Mr John Macminn in Crossmichael, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Wigton, Mr John Inglis at Kirkmabreck, Mr Andrew Donan at Wigton, ministers, Mr John Macgill in Barr, ruling elder; from the burgh of Whithorn, Mr John Bushby, Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Ayr, Dr Patrick Woodrow at Tarbolton, Dr William Dalrymple at Ayr, Mr Duncan Macmyne at Dalmellington, Mr James Thomson at Girvan, Mr William Logan at Symington, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; William Campbell, Esq; of Fairfield, ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr James Woodrow at Stevenstone, Mr George Lawrie at Loudon, Mr Alexander Gillies at Kilmaurs, ministers, the Honourable Patrick Boyle, ruling elder; from the burgh of Irvine, Thomas Tweedie of Oliver, Esq; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr John Snodgrafs at Paisley, Mr John Forrest at Port-Glasgow, Mr John Monteith *junior* at Nielston, ministers, Mr John Haddoway, merchant in Leith, Mr John Fergusson, merchant in Paisley, ruling elders; from the burgh of Renfrew, Mr Robert King, farmer in Renfrew; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr John Rish at Dalserf, Dr James Meek at Cambuslang, Mr Alexander Ranken at Cambusnethen, ministers, Henry Stewart, Esq; of Allanton, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr George Mark at Carnwath, Mr Robert Buchanan at Lesmahago, ministers, Mr John Dymock, ruling elder; from

from the burgh of Lanark, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr William Lockhart at Glasgow, Mr Robert Balfour at Glasgow, Mr Joseph Hodgefon at Carmunnock, Mr James Forlong at Rutherglen, ministers, Mr John Fergusson, merchant, Mr Andrew Paton, merchant, ruling elders; from the University of Glasgow, Professor George Jardine; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr John Allan at Row, Mr James Oliphant at Dumbarton, Mr Gordon Stewart at Bonhill, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Lufs, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun, Esq; younger of Lufs; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr James Thorburn at Kingarth, Mr John Mackinnon at Kilmodan, ministers, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Rothsay, Mr John Home of Kilduff; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr George Robertson at Campbelton, Mr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Alexander Campbell at Kilcalmonel, ministers, Mr Archibald Fletcher, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inveraray, Mr Paul Frazer at Craignish, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, ministers, Mr Lauchlane Maclauchlane, assistant minister at Inveraray, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inveraray, Dr James Williamson; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr William Campbell at Kilchrenan, Mr Patrick Campbell at Kilninver, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Moonzie, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Patrick Macarthur at Torosay, Mr Dougal Campbell at Ross, ministers, Allan Macdougall, Esq; of Galanach, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Adam Fergusson at Moulin, Mr William Inverarity at Caputh, Mr William Macritchie at Clunie, Mr William Chalmers at Auchtergaven, ministers, Thomas Elder, Esq; merchant, Edinburgh, David Stewart, Esq; Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Mr William Duncan at Abernethy, Mr John Dow at Methven, ministers, Mr John Caw, merchant in Perth, Mr John Dickson, advocate, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr David Thomson at St Ninians, Mr Walter Buchanan at Stirling, ministers, Convener John Hutton, ruling elder; from the burgh of Stirling, John Erskine, Esq; younger of Cambus, advocate; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr James Ramsay at Mardertie, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, ministers, Bailie James Gentle, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery

presbytery of Dumblane, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr James Dymock at Aberfoil, ministers, John Campbell, Esq; of Lochend, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Thomas Fernie at Dunfermline, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinross, Mr Walter Macalpin at Culross, ministers, Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, Baronet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr William Moodie at Kirkcaldy, Mr Andrew Grant at Polmoack, ministers, James Townsend-Oswald, Esq; of Dumnikier, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr John Duncan, merchant, Kirkcaldy; from the burgh of Dysart, Bailie John Melvill, Dysart; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr George Lyon at Strathmiglo, Mr Samuel Martin at Monimail, Mr David Wilkie at Cults, Mr Andrew Brown at Falkland, ministers, Mr John Dall at Priestfield, Mr David Laurie at Hill-Carnie, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvill of Cairny; from the presbytery of St Andrews, Dr John Adamson at St Andrews, Mr Archibald Gillies at St Monance, Mr Alexander Brodie at Carnbee, Mr James Brown at Newburn, ministers, Lieutenant-colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmillie, Niel Ferguson, Esq; of Pitcullo, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician in Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrews, Professor George Hill; from the burgh of Kilrenny, Mr Alexander Meldrum; from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr Thomas Mason at Glenisla, Mr Charles Keay at Cupar Angus, Mr James Hill at Ruthven, ministers, Patrick Alison, Esq; of Newhall, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr Thomas Wright at Roscobie, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, ministers, Alexander Watson, Esq; younger of Turin, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dundee, Mr James Henderson at Monyfieth, Mr David Spence at Kinnaird, Mr David Davidson at Dundee, ministers, the Honourable Henry Erskine, advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr John Carnegie at Inverkiller, Mr William Milligen at Kirkden, ministers, Mr Thomas Miln, merchant, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr David Miller at Edzell, Mr Robert Hannay at Strickathrow, Mr Alexander Peter at Logie Port, ministers, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr Alexander Leslie at Fordoun, Mr John Hutchison at Fetteresso, Mr James Walker at Dunotter, ministers, Mr John Playfair,

Playfair, ruling elder; to be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered

to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission,

mission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

VI.

Interim Act and Overture concerning Ordained Assistants.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1784.

THE General Assembly having considered the report of their Committee, appointed to take under their consideration the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning ordained assistants; are of opinion, That both the Minister of the parish, and his ordained assistant and successor, ought to be constituent members of the Kirk-Session; that in the Presbytery and Synod, either of them who is present, may deliberate and vote; that

that if both are present, these privileges belong to the Minister of the parish only; and that either of them is capable of being elected a Member of the General Assembly, but not both of them in one year. And agreed to enact the same as an Interim Act, and to transmit it as an Overture for the consideration of Presbyteries.

XX

VII.

Recommendation respecting Ordination to the Office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

THE Committee appointed to consider the Overture respecting Ordination to the office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge, reported as follows: Having carefully considered the said Overture, find that matter attended with so many difficulties, that they are not ripe to propose to the General Assembly any precise rules concerning it, fit for being enacted into standing laws; and can only move, That the Assembly should, in the mean time, recommend it to Presbyteries to be cautious in granting ordination to such persons as have neither a fixed charge, nor a reasonable prospect of such provision as may enable them to support the ministerial character; and that no Presbytery grant ordination to any person who has a near prospect of removing from the bounds of that Presbytery into another, from whom he may, in due time, receive ordination, if it shall by them be found necessary or proper. Which being considered by the General Assembly, they approved thereof, and do recommend accordingly, and order this recommendation to be printed in the Acts of this Assembly.

VIII.

VIII.

A new Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

WHEREAS, great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted, That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.



IX.

Overture from the Synod of Fife, respecting the second paragraph of the Act passed in 1782, concerning the Licensing of Probationers, ordered by the Assembly to be transmitted.

Edinburgh, May 30. 1785.

THAT it shall not be competent for the Professors of Divinity, in the several Universities of Scotland, to inrol any person as a Student of Divinity, who does not produce to them at the time of his desiring to be inrolled, either a diploma of Master of Arts, or a certificate, bearing, That he has gone through a full course of
G philosophy

philosophy at some of the Universities : And that it shall not be competent for the presbyteries of this Church to admit any person to probationary trials, unless the testimonials which he brings from the Professors of Divinity bear, that such diploma or certificate had been produced at the time of his being inrolled.



X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 18th day of May, in the year 1786.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, Cl. Eccl. Scot.

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THE
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE
NAVY

WASHINGTON, D. C.
JANUARY 1, 1892

TO THE
HONORABLE
MEMBERS OF THE
NAVY

AND
THE
OFFICERS OF THE
NAVY

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INDEX or ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly
of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1785,
which are not printed at full length.

May 19. 1785. *Seff. 1st.*

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Elders convened in the Assembly-house; and, after prayer by the said Dr John Drysdale, a letter was presented, addressed to the Moderator, from Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, informing the Assembly, that, through indisposition, he was prevented from attending his duty, as Agent and Assistant-clerk, in the present Assembly, and recommending William Murray, *junior*, writer in Edinburgh, as a proper person to officiate for him; the Assembly sustained Mr Cairncross's excuse, and appointed Mr Murray to officiate in his place.

The Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, when Dr Drysdale proposed Sir Harry Moncrieff-Wellwood, one of the ministers of the West Church. No other person being added to the nomination, the roll was called, and votes marked; and the Assembly unanimously made choice of the said Sir Harry Moncrieff-Wellwood to be their Moderator, who, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to the Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal Warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

I N D E X. 1785.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references and appeals named.
Adjournment.

May 20. 1785. *Sess. 2d.*

Sederunt.

A diet spent in prayer.

New commissions produced.

The Committee for revising commissions appointed to meet this evening.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 21. 1785. *Sess. 3d.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

The commission from the burgh of Aberbrothock rejected, because the *designation* of the presbytery by whom it is attested, is a-wanting, and likewise, because the word *day* is interlined. The Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Innerkeithing rejected, because, in the attestations by the kirk-session, and by the presbytery, it is not certified, that the elder *resides* and *officiates*, and none of the other alternatives are inserted, which the form prescribes. The Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Banff rejected, because the election is made upon the 16th of April, which is not within the time limited by act of Assembly, and because

cause it wants both the attestation of the kirk-session, and of the presbytery; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Inverness rejected, because there were not ten free days between the resolution and the day of election; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The draught of an Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, brought in, and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty. The overtures transmitted, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee of bills, called for, produced, and read.

Resolved to consider the causes from Dalton and Melrose, in succession, on Monday, before any other cause.

Agreed, That the parties in the above causes have their cases laid on the clerks table, before ten o'clock on Monday morning.

An appeal at the instance of Mr Thomas Smith, minister at Cumbertrees, against the presbytery of Annan's attesting Mr Walter Scott merchant in Edinburgh, as a member of Assembly for the burgh of Annan, heard.

Found, That there was no cause before the Assembly. The papers transmitted, therefore dismissed.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the record of the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

The Committee for overtures empowered to receive in from the several members any instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and receive in, and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition; and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet on Monday morning, at half past ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May

May 23. 1785. Sess. 4th.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for overtures produced and read.

Synod-books called for. The Synod-books of Glenelg, Lothian and Tweeddale, Merse and Teviotdale, and Fife, produced, and Committees appointed to revise the same. None of the other Synod-books were brought up. Resolved, That the reasons for their not being brought up, be enquired into. The excuse sustained for the Synod-book of Dumfries not being produced.

The roll of causes transmitted from the Committee for bills, called for, produced and read.

A Committee named to audit the Procurator and Agent's accounts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

A Committee named to reconsider the better ordering of the Assembly-house, and appointed to give in their report on Saturday morning.

An appeal of Robert Henderson of Cleugh-heads, and others, libellers of Dr William Bryden, minister of Dalton, a petition for the said Dr Bryden, and a petition for the Synod of Dumfries, read. Agreed to consider, *first*, the reference from the Synod of Dumfries: *1st*, Whether the two following questions should be put to Ann Carruthers, *viz.* *1st*, If ever she remembers that Dr Bryden damn'd her for a smoke-dried bitch? *2d*, Whether Mr Nicol, when at Dr Bryden's, asked her, Whether or not she thought Ann Dalzell with child, and if he did not say to her, that it was his opinion she was with child? After long reasoning on the above two questions, a motion was made and seconded, That the sentence of the Presbytery, refusing to put these questions, should be reversed. Another motion made and seconded, Because these questions contained and implied in them, the precise answer wished for, and expected by the party pursuer, they should be considered as leading questions improperly put to the witness, and that therefore the Presbytery's sentence, refusing to put them, should be affirmed. The Assembly agreed to the following state of the vote, *Affirm* or *Reverse*. The question being then put, it carried, *Affirm*. The Assembly therefore affirmed the sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, refusing

refusing to put the above questions to Ann Carruthers. As to the other two questions, 1st, Whether or not, while in the Doctor's service, she Agnes Carruthers ever saw or observed any indecent behaviour, or too much familiarity between Dr Bryden and Mrs Rae? and, 2^d, Whether or not she was of opinion, and suspected that the person whose foot she heard coming and going between the Doctor's and Mrs Rae's room was Dr Bryden? the Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, reversing an interlocutor of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, refusing to put the two foresaid questions to Ann Carruthers. As to the question put to Adam Aitchison, Whether or not Janet Gordon afterwards told him the reason of her asking the key of the barn, and what further conversation passed between them on that subject? the Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod, reversing an interlocutor of the Presbytery, refusing to put the above question. As to the examination of George Millar, the Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod, appointing the said George Millar to be admitted as a witness, *cum nota*. The Assembly reversed the sentence of the Synod, allowing the proof to go on, and reversing the Presbytery's interlocutor of the 7th of September, in respect that that part of the sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, which found the proof concluded, was not regularly before them. The Assembly then proceeded to consider the reference of the Synod of Dumfries, concerning the sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben on the 2d of November, refusing to go on with the proof, and to grant commission for examining witnesses beyond the bounds of the Presbytery. After reasoning for some time, the Assembly adjourned this cause till to-morrow, and summoned parties to attend *apud acta*.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1785. Sess. 5th.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning, at half past ten o'clock.

Causes fixed.

Resumed consideration of the cause of Dr Bryden, and agreed to take it up upon the reference by the Presbytery of Lochmaben of the whole cause. Dr Bryden declared, That he had no objection to the Presbytery of Lochmaben, their granting commission to the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or to any other Presbytery within this Church, to examine witnesses residing in their respective bounds; whereupon, the Assembly ordained and appointed the said Presbytery of Lochmaben to grant commission for the purpose foresaid, to all and every Presbytery of this Church, within whose bounds the witnesses adduced by the parties do or may reside. After long reasoning on the question, Whether the Presbytery of Lochmaben should be ordained and instructed to grant commissions for examining witnesses residing in England and Ireland? a motion was made, and seconded, To remit this cause to the Presbytery of Lochmaben, with instructions to them to grant such commission to a person to be named by the defender, and approved of by the Presbytery, betwixt and the first Wednesday of August next; whom failing, to any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in that place where the witnesses reside, or other competent Judge; and to them to empower the said commissioner to examine witnesses living out of Scotland, for whose non-appearance before the Presbytery of Lochmaben sufficient cause is shewn, providing that the party requiring the same shall condescend upon the facts to be proved by these witnesses, and special interrogatories to be put to them, which shall appear to the Court to be relevant: And allowing said commissioner to put such cross interrogatories arising from the answers given by the witnesses, as may be suggested by the defender or his counsel; requiring further, previous intimation to be given to the parties fourteen days before the examination. Another motion was made, and seconded, That the Assembly remit to the Presbytery with instructions not to grant commission for examining witnesses without the bounds of this kingdom. The Assembly agreed to the following state of the vote, *Grant*, or *Not*, it being understood that if it carry *Grant*, the first motion should be adopted; and if *Not*, the second motion. The question being put, it carried *Grant*. The Assembly, therefore, adopted the first motion: And further ordained the Presbytery of Lochmaben, at some meeting on or before the first

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first day of October next, to put the questions, and examine the witnesses mentioned in the minutes of yesterday; and also, to examine any persons in the original list of witnesses, who shall appear on or before the said day: But they declare, That if no witnesses appear, or no application is made for a commission to examine witnesses out of Scotland, on or before the said day, the Presbytery are instructed, against the 1st of January 1786, to hold the proof as concluded, and to give judgment upon it; and in case any commission shall be required, ordain, That the proof taken upon it shall be reported to the Presbytery within three months after the date of the commission. Thereafter, a petition for the prosecutors of Dr Bryden to the Assembly was given in, praying either to grant commission in terms similar to that given in Mr Lyal's case, or to appoint correspondents, as therein stated, or such other form as to the Assembly should seem meet. The Assembly unanimously dismissed the petition.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1785. *Sess. 6th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

The Procurator, Agent, Clerks, and Printer's accounts, produced, and ordered to lie on the Table.

A petition for the Managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, praying for a Collection, was given in, and read. The Assembly appointed a general Collection over the Church, for the benefit of the Royal Infirmary; to be made in the Presbytery of Edinburgh, on or before the first Sunday of August next, and through the rest of the kingdom, on such days as shall be fixed by the several Presbyteries within their respective bounds, before February next: The money collected to be transmitted to Mr Archibald Hope, Secretary to the Royal Bank of Scotland, and Treasurer to the Royal Infirmary.

Resolve to consider the cause of Newburgh after that of Mr Macindoe; after which, the cause of Elkdalemuir; and then that of the parish of Cathcart.

Several appeals in the cause, Robert Grierson and others, elders of the parish of Melrose, against Mr Frederick Maclaggan,

Maclaggan, minister of Melrose, heard. 1st, An appeal against a judgment of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, reversing a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk, and allowing Isobel Mein (the person with whom Mr Maclaggan is charged to have committed adultery) to be admitted as a witness for proving the objections against Janet Bunzie, one of the witnesses for the prosecutors: The Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and allowed Isobel Mein to be examined, *cum nota*. 2^d, An appeal against a sentence of the Synod of the 28th October last, finding, that a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk, pronounced on the 15th June preceding, so far as it relates to the relevancy of the facts condescended on to prove the objections against Janet Bunzie, and to set her aside from being a witness, is final, and affirming said sentence of Presbytery: The Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod; referring to both parties to be heard before the Presbytery, how far the facts deposed to by these witnesses are relevant to affect the admissibility or credibility of Janet Bunzie. 3^d, An appeal against a judgment of the Synod, of the said 28th October, reversing a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk, pronounced on the 11th of August preceding, and allowing Mr William Scott, Procurator-fiscal of the shire of Edinburgh, and Mr James Gray, writer in Edinburgh, the agent for the prosecutors, to be examined on all facts and circumstances that are relevant to set aside William Reid from being a witness, whether they came to the knowledge of these facts before or since they were employed as agents; excepting always such facts and circumstances as were committed to them in confidence by their employers: The Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod, admitting the evidence of Messrs Scott and Gray. 4th, An appeal against a judgment of the said Synod of 28th October last, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk of the 9th September preceding, and ordaining the prosecutors either to retract an assertion, That Mr Maclaggan desired Isobel Mein to give up Robert Bunzie as the father of her children, or undertake to give him a libel thereon: The Assembly unanimously affirmed the sentence of the Synod. 5th, An appeal against a judgment of said Synod of 28th October last, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk of the 20th of
said

said month, refusing a petition for the prosecutors to serve an additional list of witnesses on Mr Maclaggan, and to prorogate the term for concluding the proof: The Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod. 6th, An appeal against a judgment of the said Synod of 28th October, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk of the 20th of that month, and refusing to suspend Mr Maclaggan from the exercise of his office of Minister, during the dependence of the process: The Assembly affirmed the sentences of the Synod and of the Presbytery, refusing to suspend Mr Maclaggan. 7th, An appeal against a judgment of the said Synod of 26th April last, in so far as it declares, that their reversal of the sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk, and allowing Agnes Fairbairn to be examined as a witness for the prosecutors, should not be made a precedent for the examination of any other witnesses whatever, who either did, do, or shall reside within the bounds of the Presbytery of Selkirk: The counsel for the prosecutors at the bar passed from the same. 8th, An appeal against a judgment of the Presbytery of Selkirk of the 5th current, refusing to delay giving judgment on the proof adduced in support of the second libel, till the proof of the first libel shall be concluded; and also, refusing to allow the depositions of some of the witnesses adduced in support of the first libel, to be repeated in proof of the second, and finding themselves barred from doing otherwise, by a sentence pronounced by them on the 12th October preceding. The Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Presbytery. 9th, An appeal against a sentence of the said Presbytery of Selkirk, rejecting a petition as inadmissible, which craved a diligence against witnesses, for proving material facts *noviter venientia ad notitiam* of the prosecutors: The Assembly found this appeal inadmissible. 10th, An appeal against a judgment of the Presbytery of Selkirk of the 12th instant, resolving to allow Isobel Mein, Mrs Stevenson, and Jassy Turnbull, to be examined as witnesses for Mr Maclaggan, to prove his objections against Janet Bunzie and William Reid. The counsel for the prosecutors at the bar passed from this appeal. Thereafter heard a reference by the Presbytery of Selkirk, of the said 12th current, of the whole of the evidence against the admissibility of Janet Bunzie, and William Reid, as witnesses. The Assembly, in respect of a re-

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quisition made by both parties at the bar, and, in respect of the special circumstances of this case, appointed the Committee of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, formerly employed in taking evidence in this cause, to examine the remainder of the evidence against the admissibility of William Reid and Janet Bunzie, and directed the said Committee to report to the Assembly on Monday next; and deferred the consideration of the reference above mentioned, till the report is made; also delayed consideration of the reference on the proof of the second libel till Monday.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow, at half past ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1785. Sess. 7th.

Sederunt.

A new commission produced.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

The Committee on public accounts and new applications, and the Committees for revising the Commission-record, and the Royal Bounty-record, appointed to meet to-morrow, at half past ten in the Society-hall.

The Synod-books of Angus and Mearns produced, and a Committee appointed to revise the same.

A motion concerning the Form of Process given in, and read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Proceeded to consider the overtures from the Presbytery of Dumfries, from the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, and from the Synod of Dumfries, relating to the Law of Patronage. The following motion was made and seconded, That the General Assembly do appoint and ordain the several Presbyteries within this Church, in the most prudent and respectful manner, to consult the Noblemen and Gentlemen of landed property, as also the Royal Boroughs within their respective bounds, upon the following points, *viz.* 1^{mo}, Whether they desire, that any alteration should take place upon the act 1712, restoring Patronage, as it has been of late explained and enforced by the decisions of General Assemblies: Or, 2^{do}, Whether they would desire, in place of that act, as it now stands, the restitution of the mode of settling ministers, established by the act 1690; or, the restitution of that act, with amendments. Or, *lastly*, such

such restrictions upon the act 1712, restoring Patronage, as might prevent the bad consequences which are apprehended to have arisen from it. And that the Assembly do appoint the several Presbyteries to proceed in this matter with all convenient speed, and report the issue of their diligence to the next General Assembly. Another motion was made and seconded, To dismiss the overtures. After reasoning at great length, the Assembly agreed to the following state of the vote, *Consult*, or *Dismiss*. The question being then put, it carried, *Dismiss*. The Assembly therefore dismissed the said overtures, against which several members dissented.

Proceeded to consider the overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, anent restoring the clause in the instructions to the Commission, which was, last General Assembly, ordered to be struck out. The Assembly agreed, without a vote, to dismiss the said overture.

Adjournment.

May 27. Sess. 8th.

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the dissent of yesterday, against the decision on the overtures respecting the Law of Patronage.

A motion made for appointing a Committee to revise the Form of Process. A Committee appointed accordingly.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the former powers.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet.

A complaint against a sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, for allowing the Presbytery of Glasgow to take Mr James Macindoe, student in divinity, on trials, in order to his being licensed to preach the gospel, heard. The sentence of the Synod reversed; and found, That it is not competent for the Synod to allow the Presbytery to take Mr Macindoe upon trials, till the sentence of expulsion pronounced upon him by the College of Glasgow for contumacy, be removed; thereafter, a complaint against a sentence of the Presbytery of Glasgow, for proceeding on the trials of Mr Macindoe, heard, and the sentence of the Presbytery reversed.

Adjournment.

May

May 28. 1785. Sess. 9th.

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for the better ordering of the Assembly-house, given in and read, and approved of as follows: I. That three benches on each side of the house should be railed off for the accommodation of strangers; II. That no person be admitted into the middle of the house, except members of Assembly, ministers, those who attend the Lord Commissioner, and parties with their counsel and agents; III. That each member, at his first attendance on the Assembly, shall give his name in writing to the beadles at the door; IV. That John Grieve, Esq; late Lord Provost of Edinburgh, be appointed to carry these alterations into execution, before the meeting of the next General Assembly.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in and read.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging Mr Robertson of the sum received by him, and appointing that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 67 : 10 : 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging Mr Cairncross of the sum received by him, and appointing that he credit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 7 : 18 : 3 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

The account of stationary-ware due by the clerks to Mr Elphinston Balfour, ordered to be paid.

The account of Mr James Dickson, printer for the Church, ordered to be paid.

The Procurator gave in a report respecting the state of the public money, and new applications thereanent; ordered to lie on the table till Monday. Thanks returned to the Procurator for his diligence and assiduity in the affairs of the Church.

Report by the Committee appointed to consider new applications for shares of the public money, &c. read and approved of.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr William Milligan, minister at Kirkden, the sum of L. 50 Sterling, in case it shall appear, that a balance to that amount is still due

due for carrying on his appeal, but not to exceed that sum.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr John Ewart, minister at Troqueer, the sum of L. 20 Sterling, against the term of Whitsunday 1786.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr Robert Mathie, minister at Glendovan, the sum of L. 15 Sterling, at the term of Whitsunday 1786.

The process in which Mr Patrick Macarthur, minister at Torosay, is engaged respecting a glebe, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to carry on at the public expence.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr John Martin, minister of Mertoun, the sum of L. 20 Sterling, at the term of Whitsunday 1786.

The process in which Mr William Mitchell, minister at Tingwall is engaged, relative to the building a church, and likewise the process for an augmentation at his instance, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried through at the public expence of the Church.

The process at the instance of Mr Robert Mutter, minister at Kirkcudbright, for a certain sum in name of manse-rent, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to be carried through at the public expence.

The Committee for revising the commission-record, ordered to give in their report on Monday.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty-record called for; the report, and also the conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale ordered to be attested.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns ordered to be attested.

Synod-books not produced, ordered to be brought up to next Assembly.

The Committee on new erections gave in a report, which being considered, the Assembly, upon a motion, renewed the Committee, with instructions, to renew their application for an appropriation of part of the money arising from the restoration of the forfeited estates, for the purposes mentioned in the Committee's

report, and to take every measure that may appear to them proper for attaining that valuable object.

The report of the trustees of the fund established by act of Parliament, for a provision to ministers widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management being given in, the same was ordered to lie on the table till next diet; and the thanks of the House given to the Moderator, as collector, for his care and attention to said fund.

A petition for Mr Alexander Wilson, minister of the Scots Church at Campvere in Zealand, praying to be admitted upon the Widows scheme; the Assembly unanimously recommended the same to the trustees for managing the ministers widows funds for their consideration.

A petition for Robert Grierson and others, elders of the parish of Melrose, read; the Assembly appointed the petitioners to give in a condescendence of the facts they offered to prove, and a list of witnesses by whom they were to prove the same, and that before the rising of this sederunt, and to shew both these to the other party, before producing them to the Assembly.

An appeal of the Magistrates and Town-council of Newburgh, heard; the sentence of the Synod of Fife sustaining the call given by John Hay of Leys, Esq; to Mr Thomas Stewart to be minister of the parish and church of Newburgh, affirmed, and the Presbytery of Cupar appointed to proceed in the settlement of Mr Stewart to be minister of said parish, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

A petition for Mr John Lawrie, presentee to the parish of Eskdalemuir, and for the Duke of Buccleugh, the patron, and others, heard; the sentence of the Presbytery of Langholm sustaining the call to Mr Lawrie affirmed, and the Presbytery of Langholm appointed to proceed in the settlement of Mr John Lawrie to be minister of the said parish of Eskdalemuir, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

Agreeable to the appointment in a former part of this sederunt, Robert Grierson and others, libellers of Mr Frederick Maclaggan gave in the condescendence, with the list of witnesses then ordered, which was read; and having resumed consideration of the petition, and considered the condescendence, the Assembly refused the

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the desire of the petition, and dismissed the same, the condescendence appearing irrelevant and frivolous.
Adjournment.

May 30. 1785. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

Upon a motion, Instead of renewing the former Committee on new erections, a new Committee appointed.
The Procurator Convener.

Reasons of dissent against the decision on the overtures concerning Patronage, given in, openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Report by the Procurator respecting the state of the public money, again called for, and unanimously approved of.

The report of the visitors of the Commission-record, given in, and read, and the Commission's conduct approved. The Assembly's thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and the record ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions for them, given in, and approved of.

The Synod-book of *Merse and Teviotdale*, and the Synod-book of *Fife*, ordered to be attested.

The report of the trustees for managing the fund for a provision to ministers widows, &c. containing a state of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register for that purpose.

Instructions from the Presbytery of Dumbarton to their Commissioners, concerning the laws against profaneness, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, in terms thereof.

List of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Overture from the Synod of Fife respecting the residence of ministers, dismissed as unnecessary.

Overture from the Synod of Fife, respecting the act of Assembly, concerning the licensing of probationers, heard. The Assembly appoint the first part of said overture to be transmitted to Presbyteries for their consideration. *Vide* printed Acts.

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A Committee appointed to consider the overture from the Synod of Angus and Mearns on the *ministerium vagum*, and to report their opinion of any amendments they may think necessary to next Assembly.

Overture from the Synod of Murray on the protracting of settlements, dismissed.

All the overtures transmitted by last Assembly with the interim act, appointed to be retransmitted. *Vide* printed Acts.

An appeal of James Hall and others, parishioners of the parish of Cathcart, heard. The sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr appealed from, affirmed. And the Presbytery of Glasgow appointed to proceed to the settlement of Mr David Dow, to be minister of the Church and parish of Cathcart, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

A petition for Mr James Lawson heard, and dismissed.

A petition for Dr Hugh Blair, with a memorial of Mr Hugh Frazer, minister of the Congregation of Shelburn in Nova Scotia, craving a collection through the different parishes in Scotland; and the copy of a grant of land for building a church or meeting-house, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

An appeal of Mr Alexander Macgowan, minister of Dalry, against a sentence of the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, respecting the places of meeting of said Presbytery, heard. The sentence of the Presbytery affirmed.

An appeal of Mr James Fortune, student in divinity, against a sentence of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, heard. The sentence of the Synod affirmed.

The cause against Mr Maclaggan remitted to the Commission, it being now late, and the counsel for the prosecutors declaring, that he had no objection thereto.

A petition and complaint at the instance of Jean Purves, relict of John Tuck, feuer in Coldingham, against Mr John Jollie minister of Coldingham, heard. The complaint ordered to be served on Mr Jolly, and he ordained to be summoned to sist himself personally before the Commission in August next to make answer to said complaint, and the Clerk of Assembly appointed to transmit an extract of this sentence to the Presbytery of Churnside, appointing them to summon Mr Jolly to the said diet of the Commission in August.

All causes before this Assembly, and not determined by them, and causes remitted by former Assemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commission, with power

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power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

Protestations admitted.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings, at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this sederunt were read. The minutes of former sederunts being read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the General Assembly, and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next General Assembly of this Church, to meet on May 18. 1786.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing a psalm, and pronouncing the blessing.

F I N I S.

